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This corresponds to the practise of the *Bibliotheca Mathematica* which is devoted to the history of the mathematical sciences. The editor of *Isis* is George Sarton, Wondelgem-lez-Gand, Belgium. Subscriptions, 30 francs per year for four numbers of about 160 pages each, should be sent to the printer, Soc. an. M. Weissenbruch, imprimeur du Roi, 49, rue du Poinçon, Brussels. The attention of our readers is called to the desirability of supporting such worthy projects for the advancement of science as *Isis* and the *Bibliotheca Mathematica* which latter is published by Teubner, Leipzig, at 20 marks per year.

L. C. KARPINSKI.

An Introduction to Mathematical Physics. By R. A. HOUSTON. Longmans, Green, and Co., London, 1912. x+200 pages. $2.00.

This book is intended as a first survey of the field of mathematical physics, for students already familiar with elementary physics and dynamics. As a single volume of this grade on the whole subject it is something of a novelty, at least in English. To compare with it the reviewer calls to mind only the somewhat similar works by Christiansen and Weinstein. Its scope is, however, more restricted than the title might seem to imply.

There is no consideration given to the molecular theory of matter, the modern electron theory, or the principle of relativity. Historical perspective is absent and the physical setting of the mathematical notions is treated in the briefest way. The book may perhaps be best described as a somewhat detailed syllabus of the classic mathematical physics of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, so far as that relates to the descriptive theory of physical media, expressed in differential equations and the related integral formulas.

There are six chapters, entitled: attraction, hydrodynamics, Fourier's series and conduction of heat, wave motion, electromagnetic theory, and thermodynamics. In view of the moderate space employed, the selection of material seems judicious and representative. The mathematical treatment is rather better than the explanations of experimental results. A few of the equations are written in vector form, as an alternative short-hand, but there is confusion in the notation between a vector and its absolute value, and no real use of vector analysis as an instrument of thought. Each chapter contains several lists of examples as exercises, on the whole free from the common fault of possessing merely academic interest; but no hint of a bibliography appears.

A. C. LUNN.